

## SPECIAL EDUCATION

It is the policy of Loudoun County Public Schools ("LCPS") to adhere to federal and state regulations as they have been promulgated by the United States Department of Education and the Virginia Board of Education to implement special education programs for children with disabilities, consistent with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ("IDEA"). Specifically, these mandates are detailed in the Regulations Governing Special Education Programs for Children with Disabilities in Virginia (Virginia Regulations) and any additional documents that the Virginia Department of Education publishes to address federal and state statutes and regulations for delivering special education and related services to children.

LCPS uses the classification of developmental delay for the detection of students with disabilities for IDEA eligibility. This means a disability affecting a child ages two by September 30 through six inclusive. In furtherance of this policy, LCPS will provide a free and appropriate public education to all children with disabilities, ages 2 through 21, inclusive, residing in Loudoun County.

LCPS prohibits the harassment of children with disabilities in academic and nonacademic settings during the school day and for school-sponsored extracurricular activities.

~~If a child's Individualized Education Program ("IEP") needs amendment after a child's school year, an IEP team meeting shall be scheduled to make the changes.~~

Parents and guardians are important partners with LCPS in its mission to provide children with disabilities a free and appropriate public education. LCPS values the role of a parent(s)/guardian(s) in the development of a child's **Individualized Education Program (IEP)** and school staff will take steps to ensure that a parent(s)/guardian(s) of a child with a disability is present, or is afforded the opportunity to participate, in each child study, eligibility, and IEP meeting held for their child. During the development, review, and/or revision of a child's IEP, the input of the child's parent(s)/guardian(s) for enhancing the education of their child will be considered by the IEP team.

**When making changes to a child's IEP after the annual IEP meeting for the school year, an IEP team meeting may be scheduled to make the changes.**

~~LCPS representatives and Parent(s)/guardian(s) and the Special Education case manager of the child may agree to develop a written document to amend or modify the child's current IEP without convening an IEP meeting. At any time during this process~~

either party may request an IEP meeting. This process is not a substitute for the required annual IEP meeting.

**The following shall be required:**

1. The written document shall be developed by the parents(s)/guardians and case manager of the child.
2. If changes are made to the child's IEP, LCPS shall ensure that the child's IEP team and teachers of the child are is informed of those changes.
3. ~~Upon request, a~~ Parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be provided with a revised copy of the IEP with the amendments incorporated. Every change to the IEP shall be clearly indicated within the document.
4. The local education agency shall take whatever action is necessary to ensure that the parent(s)/guardian(s) understand and are able to participate in any discussions relating to the IEP amendment and are able to understand any documents produced before consenting to them. This includes arranging for other modes of communication for parents with disabilities (e.g., interpreters, Braille), or whose native language is other than English.
5. Prior Written Notice shall be provided prior to requesting parental consent.
6. Written parental/guardian consent shall be obtained prior to implementation of any amendment to a child's IEP.

[Former Policy 5-52] Adopted:  
8/11/70 Revised: 9/8/81, 6/22/93,  
10/13/09 Current Revision: 4/23/19

Leg Refs: 8VAC20-81-30.A, 8VAC20-81-230.B.1A, 8VAC20-81-80.M, 8VAC20-81-100.N, 34 CFR 300 .322(e), 34 CFR 300.324(a)(4) and (6), 8 VAC 20-81-110 B.9